

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 EB-11 COME-00 RSR-01 EURE-00 /092 W  
----- 112908

O 191244 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6399

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, US

SUBJ: LUKANOV VISIT

REF: A. STATE 71742, B. SOFIA 428

1. MEETING WITH LUKANOV ( REF B) CANCELLED.

2. SAW AMB. AVRAMOV, HEAD MFA EIGHTH DEPT, APRIL 19  
PER REF A. SAID I HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED SUSPEND  
DISCUSSIONS IN MFT ON LUKANOV TRIP BECAUSE OF OUR  
DISSATISFACTION AT CONTINUED APPEARANCE IN BULGAR  
INTERNAL PROPAGANDA OF SLANDER THAT US INVOLVED IN  
BEIRUT RAID. POINTED OUT THAT DESPITE EMB DEMARCHE  
WITH HIS DEPARTMENT ON APRIL 12 AND WITH PROTOCOL  
CHIEF APRIL 14, SLANDER APPEARED AGAIN IN TWO  
BULGARIAN PAPERS ON APRIL 16. WE FORCED CONCLUDE  
EITHER GOB DID NOT THINK OUR CONCERN WAS SERIOUS ABOUT SPREADING  
OF FALSE AND IMFLAMATORY CHARGE OR GOB NOT VERY  
INTERESTED IN IMPROVING RELATIONS. SUSPENSION OF  
FURTHER PLANNING OF LUKANOV VISIT SHOULD BE TAKEN  
AS EVIDENCE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR CONCERN. WE HOPED  
GOB WOULD NOW GIVE EVIDENCE OF ITS INTEREST IN  
IMPROVING RELATIONS AND OF ITS UNDERSTANDING THAT  
SUCH IMPROVEMENT INVOLVES POLITICAL AS WELL AS  
ECONOMIC MATTERS.

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3. AVRAMOV EVIDENTLY SURPRISED AND MADE FEEBLE ATTEMPT EXPLAIN BULGARIAN PRESS WAS ONLY REPRINTING MATERIALS FROM OTHER SOURCES.

4. AVRAMOV OBVIOUSLY HAD PLANNED DISCUSS LATEST GOB THINKING ON LUKANOV DELEGATION. HE NOTED MFA HAD JUST CONFIRMED PROGRAM AND COMPOSITION OF GROUP. ACCORDING AVRAMOV, THERE WILL BE SOME CHANGES IN COMPOSITION AND AMBASSADOR ZDRAVCHEV WILL JOIN GROUP IN WASHINGTON. ( EMB TODAY RECEIVED VISA APPLICATION FOR ALMOST ALL THOSE ORIGINALLY STATED AS GOING PLUS HEAD OF BULGARTABAC ENTERPRISE- SEE SEPTTEL).

5. I TOLD AVRAMOV THAT INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED BY EMB SUGGESTED WE AT THE MOMENT COULD NOT ISSUE VISAS FOR GROUP. I SAID EMB PLEASED THAT BULGAR PRESS AFTER APRIL 16 HAD NOT REPEATED CHARGE OF US INVOLVEMENT IN BEIRUT RAID. EMB WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR PRESS CLOSELY. WHILE I HAD NO SPECIFIC PROPOSAL TO MAKE AS TO WHAT GOB MIGHT DO GET LUKANOV TRIP MOVING AGAIN, THEY MIGHT WISH DO SOMETHING OTHER THAN LET EMB SEE OVER PERIOD OF TIME THAT SLANDER IS NOT REPEATED. AVRAMOV SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH FONMIN MLADENOV.  
HOUSTON

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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